

Sunday, August 16, 2020—Colossians 1:24 Rejoicing in Suffering

Colossians 1:24

- **Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:**
- **Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you**—the verb translated “rejoice” is first person singular which means that Paul is speaking of himself here in verse 24. This really started at the end of verse 23 when Paul said, “whereof I Paul am made a minister,” and where the verb “made” is also first person singular. Before this Paul had been using the second person plural “ye” to address the believers at Colosse.
- Paul is rejoicing in his sufferings that he endured on behalf of the Colossians. Recall that Paul was in Rome unhouse arrest unjustly accused when he wrote the book of Colossians.
 - Acts 25:10-12
 - Acts 28:16-20
- Yet, we see that Paul was able to rejoice in his sufferings for the Colossians and not only them but the entire body of Christ.
 - Romans 5:3
 - II Corinthians 7:4
 - Ephesians 3:1, 13
 - II Corinthians 1:5-8
 - II Corinthians 4:8-12
- **and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:**—the verb translated “fill up” is interesting to consider, it means “what is wanting in the afflictions of Christ to be borne by me, that I supply in order to repay the benefits which Christ conferred on me by filling up the measure of the afflictions laid upon me.”
- Paul is desiring to “full up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ.”
 - I Corinthians 16:17—“lacking”
 - II Corinthians 8:14—“want”
- Colossians 1:25—whatever Paul was “behind” on in terms of suffering the “afflictions of Christ” for the body of Christ Paul was willing to “fill up” and rejoiced to do so. Paul rejoiced to suffer the afflictions of Christ in his flesh for the sake the body of Christ.

- II Corinthians 11:23-27
- II Timothy 1:8
- II Timothy 2:9-10
- If enduring a little more affliction meant that someone else was going to be saved Paul rejoiced to do so.
- What about us? Where do we stand on the matter of rejoicing in suffering?
 - II Timothy 3:12
 - II Corinthians 4:12-18